(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) and (b) In the International negotiations on climate change, Developed Country Parties have argued that the major developing economies should also take on binding commitments to undertake mitigation actions alongwith the developed countries who have an obligation to reduce emissions in quantified terms. However, India and other developing countries have consistently taken a position that the Parties must take their actions in accordance with the principle of ucommon but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilitiesu of the Convention. Annex I Parties who bear the historic responsibility for climate change must commit themselves to deeper emission reduction commitments, while developing countries will take voluntary mitigation actions to the extent that the developed countries provide support in terms of finance and technology.

Protection of Tigers

315. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tigers killed during the last three years;

(b) whether there exists the Tiger Protection Act to take care of tigers;

(c) if so, how effective this Act has been in protecting the tigers;

(d) the funds made available to the States under this Act;

(e) how these funds have been utilized, so far; and

(f) the action taken by Government to protect the tigers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) Details of tiger mortality as reported by State, are given in the Statement-I (See below).

(b) and (c) The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006, provides enabling provisions for protection and conservation of tigers. The tiger has been accorded the highest degree of protection and placed in Schedule-I of the said Act.

(d) and (e) The Central Asststance is provided to the tiger States under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger. The funding support provided to such States and details of utilization, during the current plan period, are given in the Statement-II *(See* below).

(f) The milestone initiatives taken by the Government of India for protection and conservation of wild tigers and other wildlife are given in the Statement-III.

Statement-I

Number of tigers killed (as reported by States) during the last three years

Sl. No.	Year	No. of tigers mortality
1.	2006	22
2.	2007	30
3.	2008	28
4.	2009	59 *

* As on 13.11.2009

Statement-II

Funding support provided to the tiger States and utilization during the current plan period

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	States	2007-08 Released	2007-08 Utilized	2008-09 Released	2008-09 Utilized	2009-10 Released
1	Andhra Pradesh	73.9175	50.0005	56.9830	80.8100	94.9100
2	Arunachal Pradesh	110.2542	110.0347	246.1710	54.7800	48.8600
3	Assam	95.6140	66.8830	1092.3790	210.0000	-
4	Bihar	98.3205	47.9936	49.6730	0.0000	-
5	Chhattisgarh	35.2250	32.3547	169.8700	131.4300	1338.7000
6	Jharkhand	45.1600	18.3765	115.3770	112.9000	110.7350
7	Karnataka	1159.7149	1126.8433	689.6390	640.9900	437.555
8	Kerala	153.2449	134.8449	267.0900	257.2900	248.8000
9	Madhya Pradesh	2975.9411	2878.0761	6998.5420	5339.1600	931.4910
10	Maharashtra	295.7191	253.8468	411.1250	391.2200	361.7850
11	Mizoram	82.9000	82.9000	241.4500	241.4500	128.0000
12	Orissa	43.2800	42.0400	625.9900	422.7300	127.7300
13	Rajasthan	410.6800	325.9826	2708.9500	1092.2800	10692.8900
14	Tamil Nadu	45.0000	44.2360	690.8060	431.2600	135.6100
15	Uttaranchal	202.0050	188.5550	462.8500	358.9600	187.6550
16	U. P	134.8900	260.2435	417.5130	243.9700	316.0000
17	West Bengal	308.6741	117.4000	228.3940	231.5300	298.5500
	Total :	6,270.5403	5,780.6112	15,473.002	10,240.7600	15,459.27

Statement-III

Milestone initiatives taken by the Government of India for protection and conservation of wild tigers and other wildlife

Legal steps

1 Amendment of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 for providing enabling provisions for constitution of the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau.

2. Enhancement of punishment in cases of offence relating to a tiger reserve or its core area.

Administrative steps

3. Strengthening of antipoaching activities, including special strategy for monsoon patrolling, by providing funding support to Tiger Reserve States, as proposed by them, for deployment of antipoaching squads involving ex-army personnel/home guards, apart from workforce comprising of local people, in addition to Strengthe-ning of commumcation/wireless facilities.

4. Constitution of the National Tiger Conservation Authority with effect from 4.09.2006, for Strengthening tiger conservation by, *interalia,* ensuring normative standards in tiger reserve management, preparation of reserve specific tiger conservation plan, laying down annual audit report before Parliament, constituting State level Steering Committees under the Chairmanship of Chief Ministers and establishment of Tiger Conservation Foundation.

5. Constitution of a multidisciplinary Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau (Wildlife Crime Control Bureau) with effect from 6.6.2007 to effectively control illegal trade in wildlife.

6. Declaration of eight new Tiger Reserves and in-principle approvat accorded for creation of four new Reserves, namely Sahyadri in Maharashtra, Pilibhit in Uttar Pradesh, Ratapani in M.P. and Sunabeda in Orissa.

7. The revised Project Tiger guidelines have been issued to States for strengthening tiger conservation, which apart from ongoing activities, interalia, include funding support to States for enhanced village relocation/rehabilitation package for people living in core or critical tiger habitats (from Rs. 1 lakh/family to Rs. 10 lakhs/family), rehabilitation/resettlement of communities involved in traditional hunting, mainstreaming livelihood and witdlife concerns in forests outside tiger reserves and fostering corridor conservation through restorative strategy to arrest habitat fragmentation.

8. A scientific methodology for estimating tiger (including co-predators, prey animals and assessment of habitat status) has been evolved and mainstreamed. The findings of this estimation/assessment are bench marks for future tiger conservation strategy.

9. An area of 29284.76 sq. km. has been notified by 15 Tiger States (out of 17) as core or critical tiger habitat under section 38V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006 (Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, and West Bengal). Two tiger States (Bihar and Uttar Pradesh) have taken a decision for notifying the core or critical tiger habitats (2765.04 sq.km.). The State of Madhya Pradesh has not identified / notified the core / critical tiger habitat in its newly constituted tiger reserve (Sanjay National Park and Sanjay Dubri Wildlife Sanctuary).

10. A Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding executed with tiger States for better/concerted implementation of conservation inputs.

Financial steps

11. Financial and technical help is provided to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, *viz.* Project Tiger and Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals.

International Cooperation

12. India has a Memorandum of Understanding with Nepal on controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife and conservation, apart from a protocol on tiger conservation with China.

13. A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.

14. During the 14th meeting of the Conference of Parties to CITES, which was held from 3rd to 15th June, 2007 at The Hague, India introduced a resolution along with China, Nepal and the Russian Federation, with directions to Parties with operations breeding tigers on a commercial scale, for restricting such captive populations to a level supportive only to conserving wild tigers. The resolution was adopted as a decision with minor amendments. Further, India made an intervention appealing to China to phase out tiger farming, and eliminate stockpiles of Asian big cats body parts and derivatives. The importance of continuing the ban on trade of body parts of tigers was emphasized.

15. Based on Indiaus strong intervention during the 58th meeting of the Standing Committee of the CITES at Geneva from 6th to 10th Jury, 2009, the CITES Secretariat has issued a notification to Parties to submit reports relating to compliance of Decisions 14.69 and 14.65 within 90 days with effect from 20.10.2009 (Progress made on restricting captive breeding operations of tigers etc.).

Reintroduction of Tigers

16. As a part of active management to rebuild Sariska and Panna Tiger Reserves where tigers have become locally extinct, reintroduction of tigers/tigresses have been done.

17. Special advisories issued for *in-situ* build up of prey base and tiger population through active management in tiger reserves having low population status of tiger and its prey.

Creation of Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF)

18. The policy initiatives announced by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech of 29.2.2008, *inter-alia,* contains action points relating to tiger protection. Based on the one time grant of Rs. 50.00 crore provided to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) for raising, arming and deploying a Special Tiger Protection Force, the proposal for the said force has been approved by the competent authority for 13 tiger reserves. Rs. 93 lakhs each has been released to Corbett,

Ranthambhore & Dudhwa Tiger Reserve for creation of STPF during 2003-09. Central Assistance will be provided to States for creation of STPF in remaining 10 Tiger Reserves in 2009-10. Since then, the guidelines of the STPF have been revised for deploying forest personnel in place of Police, with scope for involving local people like the Van Gujjars.

19. Special advisories issued for *in-situ* build up of prey base and tiger population through active management in tiger reserves having low population status of tiger and its prey.

Tiger Deaths

316. SHRI N. R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to statistics of an NGO, Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI), 75 tiger deaths have been reported this year in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Chinese military officials were involved in illegal trade in Tiger and Leopard skins and other body parts from India;

(d) whether Debbie Banks of Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) a London based NGO which visited China in August, 2009 to investigate the illegal trade confirmed the involvement of Chinese military officials; and

(e) if so; the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTRY OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) and (b) As reported by States and the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, during 2009, mortality of 59 tigers (including seizure of 7 tiger skins) has taken place. The State-wise details are given in the Statement.

(c) and (d) It ts leamt that a foreign NGO, the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA), has investigated the illegal trade in Asian big cats in China during this year (2009), reporting purchase of wildlife articles by some officials in China.

(e) Reports are received from various sources on the illegal Wildlife trade linkages in various countries, and action is taken wherever necessary in respect of any connected crimes on Indian soil.

Statement

Tiger Mortality (as reported by States / Wildlife Crime Control Bureau)

(As on 13.11.2009)

Sl.No.	State	No. of tiger mortality	Remarks
1	2	3	4
1	Madhya Pradesh	13	-
2.	Assam	10	-